

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 195954
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 EUR-08 H-01
INR-05 PRS-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-01 IO-06
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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RCASTRODALE/GSCOTT:CJ
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-----076587 180449Z /21

P R 180038Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T STATE 195954

LIMDIS LONDON FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, US, KE, ET, MASS

SUBJECT: GROWING KENYAN CONCERN AT SOMALI THREAT

REF: NAIROBI 10318

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1. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOK OFFICIALS, YOU SHOULD
INDICATE THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND KENYAN CONCERN OVER
SOMALI INTENTIONS. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT OUR DE-
CISION TO SELL DEFENSIVE ARMS TO THE SOMALIS WAS A
DECISION MADE IN PRINCIPLE ONLY, AND WE HAVE YET TO TAKE
MEASURES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION. DUE TO THE FIGHTING
IN THE OGADEN, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HOLD THIS DECISION IN

ABEYANCE AND TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION UNTIL THE SITUATION THERE STABILIZES.

2. FURTHER, WE HAD THE INTERESTS OF KENYA VERY MUCH IN MIND IN INSISTING THAT ANYTHING WE MIGHT PROVIDE THE SOMALIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DEFENSIVE IN NATURE, COULD BE USED ONLY TO DEFEND SOMALIA'S EXISTING TERRITORY, AND WOULD NOT BE READILY SUSCEPTIBLE OF USE OUTSIDE SOMALIA'S BORDERS. IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO WEAKEN KENYA IN RELATION TO ITS NEIGHBORS. INSTEAD, WE HOPE THAT THE TOTAL EFFECT OF OUR POLICY WILL BE TO REINFORCE KENYAN SECURITY BY LESSENING SOMALIA'S DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION. WE HOPE THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT WILL

UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF GREATER WESTERN INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA FOR THEM AS WELL AS US. IN ANY CASE, THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT NO ARMS ARE BEING PROVIDED SOMALIA AT THE PRESENT TIME.

3. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT SOMALI "SUCCESS" IN THE OGADEN IS, IN OUR VIEW, UNLIKELY TO LEAD DIRECTLY TO SOMALI EFFORTS TO TAKE THE SOMALI-INHABITED PARTS OF KENYA: SINCE THE ETHIOPIANS ARE MOST UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT EXCISION OF THE OGADEN, WE SUSPECT THAT SOMALI PREOCCUPATION THERE WILL CONTINUE FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE, LEAVING THEM LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THEIR
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IRREDENTIST INTERESTS IN KENYA'S NORTHEAST PROVINCE.
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